

REDMOND POLICE DEPARTMENT

As times change, crimes change, and the Redmond Police Department (RPD) is keeping up with the trends. This feature explores some of the new avenues in community resources, police training, and law enforcement innovations the RPD is taking to prevent crime and keep our community safe.



New trends demand new strategies

Although the RPD will always have “traditional” calls such as breaking and entering or domestic violence, police departments all over the region and country are facing new challenges that require advanced skills, training, and resources.

Protecting children from Internet predators:

The Internet is growing at a rapid pace, giving people a wealth of great resources to enrich their lives. Unfortunately, there is a dark side that parents and children need to consider as they incorporate the Internet into their lives.

In many cases, kids know more about the online world than their parents, but don't necessarily have the maturity to deal with inappropriate content and interactions with online strangers. The RPD has been on top of providing education and resources to protect children from exploitation over the Internet.

For example, the City offers free classes to teach parents how to safeguard their children from Internet predators. Officers are trained and certified

by Internet and Your Child (IYC), a program developed to share basic information with people who are responsible for overseeing children's activities online. Classes include instruction in computer hardware, software, and Internet basics; hacking; protecting your privacy on the Internet; Internet fraud; sex crimes; Internet chatrooms; filtering and blocking unwanted sites with software; and searching the Internet for information on you or your child. Visit www.theinternetandyourchild.org for more information about the classes.

Preventing and responding to terrorism and biological weapons: Because of the region's proximity to the Canadian border and relatively porous waterways, the RPD must be especially vigilant about preparing for, preventing, and responding to acts of terrorism. RPD officers and leadership have participated in numerous exercises to practice responding to terrorism.

For example, last summer RPD joined other City staff and representatives from King County and Seattle governments in a simulation of a possible terrorist incident. In the mock scenario, the City received an anonymous phone call indicating that one of Redmond's wells had been contaminated with ricin. The exercise provided an opportunity



Policing for the Future



Top: Joaquin Lipana, School Resource Officer and Stacey Holland, Public Information Officer
Bottom: Patrol Officer keeps Redmond streets safe.

for RPD personnel to rehearse responding to terrorist activity, including protecting public safety and the safety of police officers, keeping the press and public informed, controlling rumors, and preventing mass hysteria.

Cultivating Relationships

The School Resource Officer Program:

Protecting children is the core mission of the School Resource Officer Program (SROP.) Because the four officers in this program are assigned to Redmond schools

on a permanent basis, they have formed close relationships and trust with students, faculty, and staff – relationships that are critical to effectively protecting students and preventing violence in schools.

In addition to teaching law enforcement classes, coaching sports teams, and running after-school programs, the school resource officers provide tools and support to students, faculty, and staff in preventing school violence. If an incident were to take place, the resource officer would already be on the premises to respond immediately and protect the safety of the students.

RPD and Citizens

Partners in crime prevention

One strategy that the RPD has employed effectively for several years is educating and empowering citizens to protect themselves, prevent crimes, and provide the police with the information that they need to successfully investigate criminal activity and apprehend offenders. For more information about the RPDs crime prevention classes and community outreach, visit www.redmond.gov or contact Officer Stacey Holland at 425-556-2545.

Citizen's Academy – Ever wanted to know what it is like to be a police officer in Redmond? The Citizens Academy will give you a crash course. Class participants receive hands-on training in SWAT, K-9, crime scene investigations, patrol procedures, traffic enforcement, accident investigation, hostage negotiations, fingerprinting, criminal investigations and firearms training.

Citizen Police Academy participants are not actually trained for police work, but they do leave the Academy with a better understanding of RPD operations and the daily responsibilities of Redmond police officers.

This year's Academy begins April 13 for nine consecutive Wednesdays. The deadline for applications is March 29. Registration for the Academy is free and on a first-come first-serve basis, so apply EARLY!

Child Safety courses are designed to teach children and parents how to avoid dangerous situations. The focus is on concepts that can help children

reduce their chance of becoming a victim. Topics include:

- Who exactly is a stranger
- How to call for emergency help
- Who abducts children and how they lure them
- Role-play activities for parents and children
- How to create a safety plan
- What to do if someone tries to grab you
- Safety while on the Internet

Robbery Awareness and Prevention classes instruct residents and businesses on how to avoid becoming a victim and how to respond if confronted by a burglar.

Shoplifting Prevention classes educate owners and store employees about recognizing and deterring shoplifters and actions they can legally take if they witness a violation. The class also provides an overview of some of the more common shoplifting techniques.

Safer Seniors educates seniors about crimes targeted at older residents. The class covers scams and frauds, along with basic safety practices such as how to carry their belongings, monitor cash, and the buddy system.

Women's Personal Safety is a two-hour program that instructs women on how to protect themselves, reduce their chances of becoming a victim of an assault or robbery, and handle incidents like road rage or armed encounters. Participants learn the precautions that they should always take when they are home, out and about, shopping, or in a vehicle.

2005 classes will take place at 6:30 pm on April 6, June 14, September 28, and November 9 at the Old Redmond Schoolhouse Community Center.

Policing tools for the 21st Century

Technology and innovations allow the RPD to be more effective in their efforts to prevent and respond to crimes. Some technologies allow officers to do their jobs faster and more efficiently. Other technologies better protect the safety of officers and the public.

Mobile command post:

RPD officers need to have the capacity to respond to crimes and emergencies anywhere in Redmond, which is why the department invested in a mobile command post. This vehicle contains all of the equipment that officers need to command an emergency situation, protect public safety, and keep the media and public apprised.

Best Practices Award

The Redmond Police Department has been accredited by the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) since July 1986, and was the first department in Washington to become accredited. CALEA accreditation is a highly-prized recognition of law enforcement excellence.

CALEA was formed in 1979 to establish a body of standards designed to increase law enforcement agency capabilities to prevent

and control crime; increase effectiveness and efficiency in the delivery of law enforcement services; increase cooperation and coordination with other law enforcement agencies and with other agencies of the criminal justice system; and increase citizen and employee confidence in the goals, objectives, policies, and practices of its police department. The Commission developed an accreditation process that provides law enforcement agencies an opportunity to voluntarily demonstrate that they meet an established set of professional standards and best police practices.

Every three years law enforcement executives from across the United States come to the Redmond Police Department to confirm that the department continues to meet the standards set by CALEA and member agencies across the country. During this time, the assessors take public comment by mail, e-mail, phone, or during a public hearing. The public is invited to give input on the Redmond Police Department to this independent team of assessors as to whether the Redmond Police Department should or should not be re-accredited.

Of all the City services that Redmond provides to its residents and businesses, public safety is perhaps the most valued. The Redmond Police Department has been and will remain committed to hiring the highest caliber officers and employing technological innovations, best policing practices, and citizen involvement in ensuring that our community remains a safe and comfortable place to live.

Innovations in Prevention

When Redmond faced an increase in graffiti incidents, the Police Department met with some of the "offenders" and came up with a solution — a legal place to paint.

The Redmond Hip Hop Art Wall has been extremely successful in curtailing other forms of graffiti. Within a few months of its 1994 construction, instances of illegal graffiti were down by 60 to 70%. Within a year, such instances fell by 80 to 90% from its peak and have remained at low levels since.

For more information about the Hip Hop Art Wall and how to add your own legal graffiti contribution, contact School Resource Officer Bill Corson at 425-556-2534 or bcorson@redmond.gov.

